



European House Borer in Western Australia

What is the European House Borer?

The European House Borer (EHB) is a destructive pest of seasoned coniferous timber including pine, fir and spruce. If allowed to become established it can cause major structural damage to buildings.

The adult beetle lays its eggs into cracks, holes and joints in dead pine trees, dead branches, or other dead parts of living trees and untreated pine timber.



The damage is done by EHB larvae (left) that hatch from the eggs. EHB can live in its larval state for two to twelve years until it matures and emerges from the timber as an adult beetle to begin the cycle again.

Is my home at risk?

There is a risk of infestation if you have untreated pine within an area where EHB has been found. In response to the threat posed by EHB an eradication program has been developed by the WA Government.

The EHB has only been found in specific infested areas known as *Restricted Movement Zones (RMZs)*. Movement of untreated pine timber and other pine wood articles is restricted within, and from, these zones. If your new house is being built within one of these areas you should use resistant construction materials – treated pine timber, non-softwood timber or steel. This will ensure protection from EHB infestation.

Existing houses in RMZs may have been constructed with untreated pine. There have only been 2 reported cases of EHB infesting structural pine timber and the eradication program aims to remove EHB from RMZs before more infestations occur. Homeowners should be aware of the signs of EHB and report any suspicious signs to 1800 084 881.

Where to get more information

The EHB eradication program has a comprehensive website that has a detailed map of infested areas and of the requirements associated with the RMZs.

www.ehb.wa.gov.au

For information on treatment options, visit the Department of Commerce website. Click on Consumer Protection and then on Real Estate/European House Borer

www.commerce.wa.gov.au

Please note that treatments may be toxic and so must adhere to usage guidelines.

